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said passive electronic component being formed of an isotropic composite made of two randomly oriented interpenetrating networks of a ceramic phase and a metallic phase.--

EWD

REMARKS

The Office action of December 21, 1993 has been carefully considered.

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The specification has been objected to and Claims 1 through 7 rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, on the basis that the numerals "8" and "14" do not appear in Figure 4 as stated on page 10 of the specification. Figure 4 has now been replaced with a new Figure 4 showing correct numerals, in accordance with the description. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 1 through 7 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in the use of the term "in association with" in Claim 1, and in that the last paragraph of Claim 1 recites a method step.

Claim 1 has now been amended to change "in association with" to "supporting", this language physically associating the parts and being supported by the drawings.

In the last paragraph of Claim 1, the term "by" has been changed to "of" in order to eliminate any possibility that this paragraph could be interpreted as a method step. This paragraph was intended to be a recitation of the structure of the passive electronic component as an isotropic composite of two randomly oriented interpenetrating networks. As such, this is not a method step. The only method step is in the paragraph beginning "a metal filling..." However, Claim 1 also contains numerous structural recitations, especially in the last paragraph describing the interpenetrating networks. The recited method step in no way obscures these structural recitations.

In view of the above amendments, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

The Office action has requested any relevant prior art of which Applicants may be aware. All relevant prior art known to Applicants was submitted with parent application Serial No. 07/972,730. Applicants have not become ^{aware} of any prior art subsequent to the submission with the parent application.

To answer the question posed in paragraph 7 of the Office action, this application is, as is stated in the filing request, a continuation of Application Serial No. 07/927,730.

The parent application has been abandoned. The specification of the present application is identical to the specification of Application Serial No. 07/972,730.

The claims of the parent application were directed to a material for passive electronic components comprising a porous ceramic body and a metal filling the porosities of the ceramic body, the material being formed by an isotropic composite of two randomly oriented interpenetrating networks of a ceramic phase and a metallic phase. Claims directed to this material were rejected in the parent application over prior art disclosing composite ceramic-metallic materials. The claims of the present application are directed to an electronic device comprising at least one heat generating electronic component and a passive electronic component supporting the at least one heat generating electronic component, the passive component being formed of the isotropic composite material as previously defined. This electronic device, including the heat generating component and the passive electronic component, was clearly disclosed in the parent specification, as can be seen from the drawing figures which include an electronic circuit and a passive component. Thus, although the present application is clearly a continuation application, the invention claimed is different

from the invention claimed in the parent application and Applicants believe that a restriction requirement would have been issued had the present claims been filed together with claims directed to the passive electronic component in the parent application.

Finally, Applicants note that a new Claim 8 has been added to the application, Claim 8 being substantially identical to Claim 1 with the exception that the specific coefficient of thermal expansion and the density of the passive component are not recited.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that questions remain regarding the subject matter of the present application as described or claimed, he is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss such questions.

Respectfully submitted,


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